

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 15 and 16 as follows:

1           1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for connecting at least one function-extending  
2       module, which is detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module capable of  
3       reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated between said at least one function-  
4       extending module and the base module, the apparatus comprising:

5           a detecting unit for detecting the installation of said at least one function-extending  
6       module in the module rack and for generating a detection signal;

7           a switching unit for connecting the base module to said at least one function-  
8       extending module; and

9           a control unit for controlling the switching unit so that said at least one function-  
10      extending module is connected to the base module in a daisy-chain fashion according to the  
11      detection signal from the detecting unit;

12          wherein the base module has a port and each function-extending module has first and  
13      second ports;

14          wherein the switching unit comprises a first switching part for selectively connecting  
15      the port of the base module to the first port of one function-extending module, and a second  
16      switching part for selectively connecting the second port of said one function-extending  
17      module to the first port of any other function-extending module;

18          wherein the second switching part comprises n switching [[n]] devices, each

19 switching device corresponding to a given function-extending module, said each switching  
20 device comprising a common port and n-1 selection ports, one selection port for each of n-1  
21 other switching devices; and

22 wherein the common port of said each switching device is connected to the second  
23 port of said given function-extending module, and said n-1 selection ports of said each  
24 switching device are connected to the first port of ~~[[said]]~~ n-1 other ~~switching devices~~  
25 function-extending modules, respectively.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the port of the base  
2 module comprises an IEEE 1394 port and said first and second ports of said each function-  
3 extending module are IEEE 1394 ports

1 3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the detecting unit sends  
2 the detection signal to the control unit, the detection signal indicating whether a  
3 corresponding function-extending module is inserted into the module rack, said control unit  
4 generating a control signal; and

5 wherein the first switching part selectively connects the port of the base module to the  
6 first port of said one function-extending module in response to the control signal generated  
7 by the control unit.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

1           5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said each switching  
2 device connects one of the selection ports to its common port in response to another control  
3 signal generated by the control unit.

1           6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one function-extending  
2 module comprises a plurality of function-extending modules, and wherein said switching  
3 unit establishes interconnections between respective function-extending modules.

1           7. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a plurality of function-extending  
2 modules, which are detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module capable of  
3 reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated, the method comprising the steps  
4 of:

5           (a) providing a switching unit having a first port connected to the base module, said  
6 switching unit including a plurality of ~~common ports~~ switching devices, one for each  
7 function-extending module, each switching device having a common port and a plurality of  
8 ~~additional~~ selection ports;

9           (b) connecting ~~[[each]]~~ the common port of ~~[[the]]~~ each switching ~~[[unit]]~~ device to  
10 a first port of a respective one of said function-extending modules;

11           (c) connecting each ~~additional~~ selection port of ~~[[the]]~~ said each switching ~~[[unit]]~~  
12 device to a second port of a corresponding one of said function-extending modules other than  
13 said respective one of said function-extending modules;

14 (d) detecting whether said function-extending modules are inserted into the module  
15 rack; and

16 (e) connecting the detected said function-extending modules to the base module.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein step (e) comprises:

2 (e11) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

3 (e12) connecting the base module to said at least one function-extending module when  
4 the previously installed function-extending module is not present.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein step (e) comprises:

2 (e21) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

3 (e22) connecting the previously installed function-extending module to a newly  
4 installed function-extending module and connecting the newly installed function-extending  
5 module to the base module when only one previously installed function-extending module  
6 is present.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein step (e) comprises:

2 (e31) checking for presence of previously installed function-extending modules; and

3 (e32) connecting a newly installed function-extending module to a function-extending  
4 module which constitutes a last node of a daisy chain of the previously installed function-  
5 extending modules when a number of the previously installed function-extending modules

6 is at least two, and connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base  
7 module.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein step (e) further comprises  
2 connecting said detected at lease one function-extending module to an installed function-  
3 extending module in the daisy-chain fashion.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A recording medium having program codes that connect a  
2 newly installed function-extending module, which is detachably inserted into [[the]] a  
3 module rack, to a base module capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be  
4 communicated, the medium comprising:

5 a first program code for detecting whether the newly installed function-extending  
6 module is inserted into the module rack; and

7 a second program code for connecting a first port of the newly installed function-  
8 extending module to a second port of a previously installed function-extending module via  
9 a common port of a first switching unit and a selection port of a second switching unit when  
10 the newly installed function-extending module is detected as being inserted into the module  
11 rack;

12 wherein the second program code comprises:

13 a first program code portion for confirming presence of the previously installed  
14 function-extending module; and

15 a second program code portion for connecting the second port of the previously  
16 installed function-extending module to [[a]] the first port of the newly installed function-  
17 extending module via the common port of the first switching unit and the selection port of  
18 the second switching unit when there is only one previously installed function-extending  
19 module, and connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base module.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 12, wherein the second  
2 program code further comprises:

3 a third program code portion for connecting the ~~base module to a~~ first port of the  
4 newly installed function-extending module to the base module when the previously installed  
5 function-extending module is not present.

Claim 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 12, wherein the second  
2 program code further comprises:

3 a third program code portion for connecting [[a]] the first port of the newly installed  
4 function-extending module to a second port of a function-extending module that constitutes  
5 a last node of a daisy chain of [[the]] previously installed function-extending ~~module~~  
6 modules when a number of the previously installed function extending modules is at least  
7 two, and for detachably connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the

base module.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a plurality of function-extending modules, which are detachably inserted into a module rack, to a base module capable of reproducing audio/video (AV) data to be communicated, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting whether said function-extending modules are inserted into the module rack; and

(b) connecting the detected said function-extending modules to the base module;

wherein step (b) comprises:

(b21) checking for presence of a previously installed function-extending module; and

(b22) connecting a second port of the previously installed function-extending module to a first port of a newly installed function-extending module via a common port of a first switching unit and a selection port of a second switching unit and connecting the newly installed function-extending module to the base module when only one previously installed function-extending module is present.